

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.
Claims 1-64 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-6, 13-23, 27-37, 44-54, and 58-64 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,549,612 to Gifford et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Each of the independent claims specifies converting between the media type of the message associated with the prescribed messaging operation and the corresponding e-mail message having the URL encoded string and the MIME type specified in the header of the e-mail.

Hence, the claimed application server is able to store any type of message within the message store, regardless of the corresponding media type, based on converting the message into a generic format message that is represented as a URL encoded string, and specifying the original MIME type within an e-mail header, and then attaching the URL encoded string and the header specifying the MIME type within the e-mail for storage in the messaging server.

The Examiner contends that Gifford et al. teaches converting between the media type of the message associated with the prescribed messaging operation and the corresponding e-mail message having the URL encoded string and the MIME type specified in the header of the e-mail. In support, the Examiner cites columns 6-8 of Gifford et al. and states, "Gifford discloses that manipulation of URL encoded strings control formatting and transmission of stored messages." This is not a teaching of the converting step as claimed. As described at column 7, lines 55-59 of Gifford et al., the URL links merely reference a CGI program that returns a dynamically constructed image which contains current information.

In other words, the claimed URL encoded string represents the message (i.e., contains actual data), as opposed to the conventional use of URLs to merely reference (i.e., locate) a resource (see Exhibit A, pages 1-2 of RFC 1738 which defines Uniform Resource Locator). There is no teaching or suggestion in Gifford to use a URL encoded sting to represent the message as claimed.

Hence, the rejection should be withdrawn because it fails to demonstrate that Gifford et al. disclose each and every element of the claim. See MPEP 2131. "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). "Anticipation cannot be predicated on teachings in the reference which are vague or based on conjecture." Studiengesellschaft Kohle mbH v. Dart Industries, Inc., 549 F. Supp. 716, 216 USPQ 381 (D. Del. 1982), aff'd, 726 F.2d 724, 220 USPQ 841 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

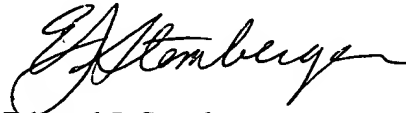
The rejections under §103 of claims 7-8, 9-12, 24-26, 40-43, 55-57 are moot in view of the foregoing.

In view of the above, it is believed this application is and condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any missing or insufficient fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), to Deposit Account No. 50-1130, under Order No. 95-415, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Stemberger", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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- - Exhibit A - -

Network Working Group
Request for Comments: 1738
Category: Standards Track

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Uniform Resource Locators (URL)

Status of this Memo

This document specifies an Internet standards track protocol for the Internet community, and requests discussion and suggestions for improvements. Please refer to the current edition of the "Internet Official Protocol Standards" (STD 1) for the standardization state and status of this protocol. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

Abstract

This document specifies a Uniform Resource Locator (URL), the syntax and semantics of formalized information for location and access of resources via the Internet.

1. Introduction

{ This document describes the syntax and semantics for a compact string representation for a resource available via the Internet. These strings are called "Uniform Resource Locators" (URLs).

The specification is derived from concepts introduced by the World-Wide Web global information initiative, whose use of such objects dates from 1990 and is described in "Universal Resource Identifiers in WWW", RFC 1630. The specification of URLs is designed to meet the requirements laid out in "Functional Requirements for Internet Resource Locators" [12].

This document was written by the URI working group of the Internet Engineering Task Force. Comments may be addressed to the editors, or to the URI-WG <uri@bunyip.com>. Discussions of the group are archived at <URL:http://www.acl.lanl.gov/URI/archive/uri-archive.index.html>

2. General URL Syntax

Just as there are many different methods of access to resources, there are several schemes for describing the location of such resources.

The generic syntax for URLs provides a framework for new schemes to be established using protocols other than those defined in this document.

URLs are used to 'locate' resources, by providing an abstract identification of the resource location. Having located a resource, a system may perform a variety of operations on the resource, as might be characterized by such words as 'access', 'update', 'replace', 'find attributes'. In general, only the 'access' method needs to be specified for any URL scheme.

2.1. The main parts of URLs

A full BNF description of the URL syntax is given in Section 5.

In general, URLs are written as follows:

`<scheme>:<scheme-specific-part>`

A URL contains the name of the scheme being used (<scheme>) followed by a colon and then a string (the <scheme-specific-part>) whose interpretation depends on the scheme.

Scheme names consist of a sequence of characters. The lower case letters "a"--"z", digits, and the characters plus ("+"), period ("."), and hyphen ("-") are allowed. For resiliency, programs interpreting URLs should treat upper case letters as equivalent to lower case in scheme names (e.g., allow "HTTP" as well as "http").

2.2. URL Character Encoding Issues

URLs are sequences of characters, i.e., letters, digits, and special characters. A URLs may be represented in a variety of ways: e.g., ink on paper, or a sequence of octets in a coded character set. The interpretation of a URL depends only on the identity of the characters used.

In most URL schemes, the sequences of characters in different parts of a URL are used to represent sequences of octets used in Internet protocols. For example, in the ftp scheme, the host name, directory name and file names are such sequences of octets, represented by parts of the URL. Within those parts, an octet may be represented by